A beginners guide to meditation.

1. Short Sessions

Start small and you will become more consistent and efficient with your practice. Even a few minutes or even less paying attention to your breathing can make a difference. Gradually increase your practice time as it becomes a habit. Check out more at Mindfulness.com

2. Integrate Meditation with Daily Activities

Incorporate meditation into your everyday life. For example, meditate while waiting for your morning coffee to brew or during your commute or even while brushing your teeth. These moments can serve as cues to practice mindfulness. Mindfulness.com

3. Comfort is Key

Designate a quiet, comfortable spot for meditation. No special is needed—just a place where you can sit undisturbed.

4. Try out Various Techniques

There are so many ways to focus on your meditative journey. Experiment and see what resonates with you:

- Mindfulness Meditation: Focus on your breath and bodily sensations.
 Loving-Kindness Meditation: Cultivate feelings of compassion toward yourself and others.
- Guided Meditation: Use apps or recordings to lead you through the practice.
- Body Scan: Bring awareness to different parts of your body sequentially.
 Mindfulness.comGlamour+5MindOwl+5Mindfulness.com+5

5. Patience will Win the Day

Learning to meditate or bring focus to your everyday life may take some time. In our busy lives, it is difficult to shut it down and stop. It is normal for the mind to wander so remember to gently redirect your focus without judgment. <u>Mindfulness.com</u>

The Benefits of Meditation

The Science behind the benefits of meditation is conclusive. Below are some ways that we can benefit from a daily practice of meditation.

 Stress Reduction: Meditation can lower stress hormones (e.g., cortisol), reducing stress. <u>Healthline</u>

- **Enhanced Focus and Attention**: Regular meditation has been shown to improve concentration and cognitive function. <u>Healthline</u>
- **Emotional Well-being**: Meditation can foster a positive mood and enhance emotional resilience. Healthline
- Improved Sleep: Sleep quality and duration increases with regular meditative practice.
 UC Davis Health
- **Pain Management**: Regular meditation has been shown to be helpful in patients who may be in pain. Regular focus can help improve coping strategies. <u>Healthline</u>
- **Lower Blood Pressure**: Regular practice can contribute to a reduction in blood pressure and a better overall circulatory profile. <u>UC Davis Health</u>
- **Slowed Aging**: Although not conclusive, practicing meditation may slow age-related cognitive decline as a result of stress reduction. nypost.com

Other Resources

Consider these resources:

- Apps: <u>Headspace, Calm, Insight Timer</u>
- Guides: Mindfulness.com, Silva Method

Remember, the key here is consistency. Start small and start slow. Eventually, with practice, your meditative practice will become a more natural and enriching part of your daily life.